

# **Region 4 CAC Meeting Minutes February 27, 2008**

FWP Staff – Gary Bertellotti, Fred Schultz, Bruce Auchly, Roger Semler, Ken Farthing, George Liknes and Mike Martin

CAC Members – Joe Schaffer, Judie Suden, Mike Labriola, Doug Deffe', Charles Bocock, Rocky Harber, Jim Elings, Fred Davison and Deanna Robbins

Public/Guests – Wayne Johnston, Executive Director, Montana Board of Outfitters; Alan Charles, FWP Landowner/Sportsmen Coordinator; Roger Pepper, Montana Bowhunters Association

Gary opened the meeting and went over the agenda and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were noted.

It was announced that Doug Caltrider of White Sulphur Springs has resigned. In discussions during the evening, Jim Elings of Cut Bank will be stepping off the CAC after two years of service effective July 1, 2008. It was decided that these two members needed to be replaced but with folks from the general area they were from. We will advertise and select two new members from their vacated areas.

## **Region 4 CAC Charter Discussion:**

Joe Schaffer, Chairman, prepared a draft of the proposed Region CAC Charter. It was emailed to folks and he did get some replies as to corrections/additions/deletions, etc. Copies of the draft were distributed to the members.

Jim Elings wanted to know why we are doing a charter for the CAC when he already found one on the FWP website? Shouldn't we just use that one?

Gary B. stated that the charter on the website should be used as the basis of anything Region 4 CAC comes out with. Every region has modified and developed their own unique group within the original charter's broad definitions. Number of members, how many meetings, etc.

Joe stated that he talked to Regions 1 & 6 and found that the charter on the website was used as a guide but they developed their own.

A discussion ensued about how new members are selected. Mike Labriola stated that if we members help select new members it would take the heat off FWP and it wouldn't

appear that FWP is selecting folks who are in FWP's corner only. Charles Bocock agreed with Mike on selecting new members.

Doug Deffe' feels we need to have our own charter and use the website charter as a template. But questioned if new charter for Region 4 was written up if that wasn't a duplication of effort since there was already an CAC written charter on FWP website.

Joe than suggested we go over the handout (draft) for further discussion. Mike L. would like to add some clarity to section VIII – Legislative Interaction. Need to clarify what a CAC member is allowed to say to a legislator. It should state that we could speak to a Legislator as a citizen but not represent CAC. Charles wanted to know why we couldn't lobby as a group representing our constituents? Gary stated that that would violate lobbying rules. Deanna R. stated that we were formed as an advisory group – not a representative of FWP.

Joe requested we go over the charter and fill in some areas he left blank. First area was number of members for Region 4 CAC. It was agreed to be a maximum of 12.

Discussion then got into terms of members. Mike objected to multiple terms. Jim E. suggested a 4-year term with half of the committee being replaced every two years. Charles suggested that if you were allowed to be elected for a second term that one is off a year and then be able to reapply. Mike L. objected to being off a year. We need to maintain validity and avoid cronyism. Joe suggested 2-year term with maximum 4 year and stagger committee members. Doug D. stated that 4 years sounds daunting. Deanna wanted to know if it was a member's choice to serve again or do they get reevaluated? Gary stated that there is a set of criteria and it would be based on your application and reevaluated within the CAC group. Deanna stated that it should be looked at as a 4-year term and let the person decide if they want to stay longer. Joe stated they should be reappointed. New members – CAC collectively work with FWP for selection. On reappointments – department decides on criteria. Joe suggested members are elected for 2-year term and if a member elects to serve a second term member can do so, leave wording as it is. Maximum of four years on the committee but change wording in charter from "shall be removed" to "may be removed". Bottom line is that a member is elected for a 2-year term and can request to serve a second term – maximum 4 years.

Section VII D. Meeting Facilitation and Operation – Change wording from "required to bring reports" to expected to bring reports".

Next discussion was on replacement of members, who, when and how to replace. Gary stated it would take about 2 months to replace members based on advertising and reviewing applications, etc. July 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date used to determine dates, beginning and ending. This initial group of members will need to be assigned staggered terms. Therefore, starting July 1, 2008, half (6) of the members will be appointed to another one year term, and the other half (4) plus the two new members to be recruited, will be appointed to another two year term. All CAC members from this initial group will be illegible to be appointed for another term if they desire.

At that point Jim Elings said he would like to resign effective July 1 this year. That leaves us two openings to fill – one in the White Sulphur Springs area and one in the Cut Bank area. It was recommended that Jim pass the word around in his area if someone may be interested in filling his position. We will advertise and request applications and form a committee to select these two new members. These two new members would start July 1 and start with a 2-year term. They will be ineligible to opt to stay on the CAC for an additional 2-year term per the Charter.

The council asked Fred to survey all existing members to see who would be interested in serving the 1-year term starting July 1, 2008.

### **Tentatives:**

Gary handed out a summary of the FWP Commission's decisions on the Tentatives for 2008/2009. The following topics were covered:

Hunting season opening dates for 2008/2009 remained the same as to how they are determined.

Quotas – Adjust annual license and permit quota setting for deer, elk, antelope, moose, sheep, goat and bear to biennial. Ranges adopted biennially by Commission with annual FWP adjustments only within adopted range.

Wolf Season – Only structure adopted – quota numbers addressed with separate future process. Trapping would be excluded the first two seasons with hunters allowed to harvest the 25% trapping quota during the trapping season (Dec 1 – 31) in the absence of trapping. While the season structure has been adopted, license sales and a hunting season would not occur until wolves are successfully delisted and any pending litigation is resolved.

Youth Pheasant Weekend – Overlaps youth waterfowl weekend. Youth Pheasant hunting would be during legal upland bird shooting times on these two days. Youth defined to be 12-15 and would need to be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.

Moose – HD 600 – Implement new hunting district 600 (Hi Line). Two Either Sex licenses recommended.

### **Elk Archery Permits: Missouri River Breaks**

2008: limited ES permits: any choice; 100% of 3-year average; limited antlerless permits (range 50-300) 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (after 1<sup>st</sup> choice ES in same district)

HD 410/417 – 2400 permits

HD 620/621/622 – 1670 permits

HD 700/701 – 1090 permits

2009: limited ES permits; any choice; 75% of 3-year average; limited antlerless permits (range 50-300) 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (after 1<sup>st</sup> choice ES in same district)

HD 410/417 – 1560 permits  
HD 620/621/622 – 1080 permits  
HD 700/701 – 720 permits

Elk Archery Permits: Outside Breaks

2008: 1<sup>st</sup> choice unlimited ES permits; general license antlerless; districts “bundled” into groups

HDs 401/403/441/450  
HDs 411/412/426/511/530  
HDs 420/447/455  
HDs 500/570  
HDs 502/portion 510 west of HWY 310/portion 520 east of West Fork of Rock Creek/575  
HDs portion 580 south of Sweetgrass Creek  
HD 590  
HDs 702/704/705

2009: limited ES permits; any choice; 100% of 2008 application; general license antlerless; districts “bundled” into groups

Antelope – Replace unlimited 900 archery antelope licenses to 5600 licenses available through the drawing (Regions 3-7) on first, second or third choice. Increase number of 900-30 doe/fawn antelope licenses that may be purchased by a successful applicant from one to two.

Adjust total number of antelope licenses an individual may hold to three, only one of which may be an either sex licenses.

Mountain Lion – Allow any lion license holder to hunt without dogs during Fall Season in any lion hunting district with an open Fall Season. This eliminates validation requirement for Fall Season.

Region 2 – replace the quota system in Region 2 with a limited license drawing system in all districts except Missoula Special Management Area.

Montana Board of Outfitters Briefing – Wayne Johnston, Executive Director of the Board, Department of Labor and Industry

Highlights of his briefing:

Board is set in statute, 3-year terms. There are seven members on the board appointed by the Governor. One big game hunting outfitter; one fishing outfitter; two outfitters who

are engaged in the fishing and hunting outfitting business; two sportspersons; and one member of the general public.

In 1999 they developed a database to help get more stats about the outfitting business, harvest stats, etc. In the last few years hunting outfitters have shown a decrease and fishing outfitters have increased which has made the industry numbers about the same. Any land an outfitter uses must be in his operations plan.

In 2007 outfitters used 5.2 million acres of private land. In Region 4 they used 1.2 million acres and in 2007 they used 1.15 million acres. This is just private land and does not include public land. If they utilize public land they must have a land use permit from the agency controlling that land and it must be on their operations plan.

Each outfitter has a net client/hunter use quota. NCHU puts an umbrella as to the number of clients an outfitter can have.

Being an outfitter isn't necessarily cheap - \$1800 for a license the first year and \$300 after that. Guides license is \$150 per year.

Less than 4% of outfitters are from out of state. Nonresident outfitters have to meet the same requirements as resident. There is no reciprocity between states.

Enforcement is the biggest challenge facing the Board. There are only 2 investigators assigned. Outfitter Board works a lot with our wardens because of this. In the 2007 legislature made guiding without a license a felony. This really helps our enforcement program.

MOGA, Montana Outfitter/Guide Association is a private organization. We don't always agree on things but we do work well together.

There are a lot of changes happening in the outfitting industry. Lot more corporate involvement, booking agents, etc. Bottom line is that outfitters have all the responsibility for any problems that occur with their business – be it a guide screwing up, collecting funds from clients, booking fees, etc. The outfitter must handle all money involvement with a client not the guide.

The Board meets on a regular basis and if anyone has any concerns or wants to address the Board please let Wayne know. Board wants public involvement.

**Parks:** Roger Semler, Parks Manager, briefed the CAC on the Smith River Plan, which is having monthly meetings and passed out the 2007 Smith River Annual Report.

**FWP Access Program and Public Land/Public Wildlife Council Briefing – Allan Charles, Landowner/Sportsman's Relations Coordinator**

Briefed on the history and makeup of the Public Land/Public Wildlife (PL/PW) Council. Explained the role the council plays in dealing with land and wildlife issues. They meet 4-6 times per year and meetings are open to the public. They concentrate on access programs and problems. Council members serve 2-year terms and can serve up to 2 terms. Subcommittees are working on three issues at the moment: 1) Variable Priced Licenses; 2) New landowners – harboring of wildlife issues; 3) Evaluation of hunting access programs in general.

Right now the Council is looking at how Private Land is used/managed as far as access goes. We know there is 5.2 million acres of private land that is outfitted; 6.1 million acres that is enrolled in Block Management and there is a total of 60.1 acres of private land. So what is the other 49 million acres being managed for as far as access for hunting goes? The department is going to contract with a private agency to survey all landowners as to their land use. There are four categories that are going to be used: 1) Closed; 2) Hunting without fee – family, friends or mostly general public; 3) Hunting with fee – licensed outfitter, unlicensed outfitter, leased, access brokers; 4) Unknown. The Council is trying harder to see how land is used. This is an unregulated area as to how land is being used and landowners don't have to report how their land is used.

#### **Block Management Program for Region Four – Ken Farthing, Coordinator**

Ken discussed in length the Block Management Program for Region 4. He started in 1997, a year after the program became formalized. He discussed the Access Montana program, which deals with signing lands that are legally accessible, and the Special Access Projects, which is particular single species, access program. Ken will be submitting copies of the Region 4 Block Management annual report to the members of the CAC when it is finalized.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Region 4 Headquarters, 4:00 to 8:30 pm.**